



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. WYD-03-2014-005  
Expires: 08/05/2015

To: Atlantic Rim Review Team and Working Groups

From: Dennis J. Carpenter, Field Manager 

Subject: Impact Thresholds on Greater Sage-Grouse in the Atlantic Rim Project Area

The Atlantic Rim Greater Sage-Grouse Working Group has identified two thresholds for Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitat in the Atlantic Rim Project Area (ARPA). If either of the thresholds are met or exceeded, the mitigation and/or adaptive management process will be triggered that would initiate consideration of measures that would contribute to the achievement of the Performance Goal identified for Greater Sage-Grouse in the ARPA.

The thresholds identified by the Working Group are detailed below:

1. Using data from 2006 through 2012, a population trend model designed to be run annually, was developed by the United States Geological Survey that compared ARPA Greater Sage-Grouse Lek attendance with attendance at control leks (located across Wyoming in areas with similar habitat features and little to no oil and gas development), that would allow for the identification of any divergence from normal Greater Sage-Grouse population fluctuations. The Working Group has identified the impact threshold as any measurable divergence in the population trend between the ARPA and the control sites at the 80-percent confidence interval, based on the annually-run population trend model.
2. The Working Group has concluded that lek complex occupancy equates to well-dispersed population distribution for breeding and nesting habitat. Therefore, the impact threshold for well-dispersed habitat would be triggered if any lek complex during two consecutive seasons shows a reduction of 50-percent or more in male lek attendance compared to the minimum levels observed during 2005 to 2007. A lek complex is defined as a lek or a group of leks within one and one-half miles of each other between which male Greater Sage-Grouse may interchange from one day to the next.

If either of these thresholds are met or exceeded, the Greater Sage-Grouse Working Group would reconvene and determine whether the mitigation or adaptive management process should be initiated.

The development of these thresholds followed the protocol outlined in Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WYD-03-2012-003, Recommendations for and Changes to Monitoring Procedures for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project of March 28, 2012. The BLM-Authorized Officer (Dennis J. Carpenter) recommends the adoption of the thresholds identified above.

If you have any questions regarding this IM, please contact Jennifer Fleuret, Atlantic Rim Project Manager, at (307) 328-4314, or e-mail [jfleuret@blm.gov](mailto:jfleuret@blm.gov).